

How is confidentiality handled?

The Maryland Cancer Registry maintains strict confidentiality. According to HIPPA privacy regulations, the Maryland Cancer Registry is a public health authority authorized by law to collect and receive information for the purpose of preventing and controlling disease, injury, or disability. The MCR only releases confidential cancer data if the release is approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

For more information:

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The services and facilities of the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) are operated on a non-discriminatory basis. This policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin and applies to the provisions of employment and granting of advantages, privileges and accommodations.

The department, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensures that qualified individuals with disabilities are given an opportunity to participate in and benefit from DHMH services, programs, benefits, and employment opportunities.

Martin O'Malley,

Governor

Anthony G. Brown,

Lt. Governor

Joshua M. Sharfstein,

Secretary, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene



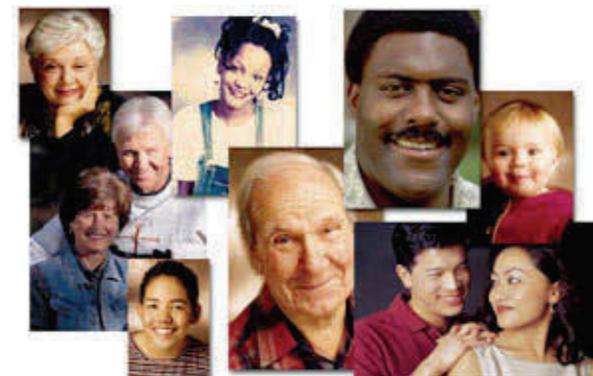
Information is vital to monitoring trends and preventing cancer.

The Maryland Cancer Registry collects, analyzes and interprets information that is used in the fight against cancer.

The registry relies on health care providers throughout the state to report information about cancer cases in Maryland. This statewide database is used to determine the impact of cancer on Marylanders and develop better ways to prevent and treat it.



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FACTS about the Maryland Cancer Registry:



The Maryland Cancer Registry (MCR) is a computer-based cancer incidence data system maintained under the direction of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The MCR tracks the number of people with cancer and it helps communities to plan for cancer services. The MCR collects, maintains, and reports on all new reportable cancers diagnosed in people in Maryland. Tumors of the brain and central nervous system are reported even if they are benign. Basal and squamous cancers of the skin are not reported to the MCR.

Who is required to report cancer cases?



Maryland law requires hospitals, freestanding radiation therapy centers, ambulatory care facilities, laboratories and physicians to report tumors to the MCR within 6 months of diagnosis. Through data exchange agreements with neighboring states including Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, the MCR receives information on Maryland residents diagnosed or treated for cancer in these states.

What kind of information is collected?

- Patient demographics;
- Primary site of cancer;
- Tumor histology;
- Stage or extent of disease;
- Treatment (including surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormone or immunotherapy); and
- Current status of patient.

When was the registry established?

Maryland started a registry in 1992. Other states have similar cancer registries.

Where is the registry located?



The Maryland Cancer Registry is located in Baltimore, MD. The cancer registry is under the direction of DHMH. DHMH subcontracts the database management and quality assurance components of the MCR.

Why is it important to report cancer cases to the registry? **How** is information used?

The Maryland Cancer Registry compiles information that is vital to the prevention and treatment of cancer. This information is used to keep track of how many cancer cases Maryland has each year. With the data we can:

- Compare state, regional and county cancer rates with rates from other states and the U.S.;
- Allow state and local agencies to plan for health care needs related to cancer;
- Identify groups, counties, or regions that have higher levels or rates for certain cancers;
- Compare numbers and rates for cancer in the different parts of Maryland and the U.S.;
- Look at changes in the number of cancer cases over time and track the stage of cancers at diagnosis which could be due to access to medical care;
- Plan and evaluate cancer prevention and control programs;
- Work with researchers to conduct cancer studies;
- Investigate possible cancer clusters; and
- Let the public know about cancer in Maryland by publicizing summaries, data tables, graphs, and special reports required by Maryland Law.